

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CAPE T 00030 120714Z
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 /069 W
-----120724Z 014147 /22

R 111307Z JAN 77
FM AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5573
INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAPE TOWN 0030

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, SF
SUBJ: (COLORED) LABOR PARTY'S ANNUAL CONFERENCE

REF: CAPE TOWN 0019

SUMMARY: THE (COLORED) LABOR PARTY HELD ITS ELEVENTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN CAPE TOWN JANUARY 4-7. THE 200-OLD DELEGATES RE-ELECTED ALL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE INCUMBENTS INCLUDING PARTY LEADER SONNY LEON WITHOUT SERIOUS OPPOSITION. GOVERNMENT RACIAL POLICIES WERE ROUNDLY CONDEMNED BUT A NUMBER OF DIFFICULT ISSUES WERE SIDESTEPED, INCLUDING THE KEY QUESTION OF CONTINUED PARTICIPATION IN THE COLORED REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL (CRC). THE PARTY'S CHIEF WHIP STRONGLY CRITICIZED US CONGRESSMAN CHARLES DIGGS FOR STATEMENTS MADE DURING HIS VISIT HERE. END SUMMARY.

1. CONFERENCE WAS OPENED BY REV. ALLAN BOESAK, STUDENT PASTOR AT UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN CAPE, WHO URGED PARTY TO COME TO GRIPS WITH THE DILEMMA OF ITS CONTINUED PARTICIPATION IN AN INSTITUTIONAL (CRC) WHICH IT REJECTS AS AN INSTITUTION OF APARTHEID AND TO ASSESS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 CAPE T 00030 120714Z

FORTHRIGHTLY THE IMPLICATION ON THE RIOTING AND UNREST WHICH BEGAN LAST YEAR. BOESAK WAS ACCORDED STANDING OVATION BUT ACTION ON HIS ADVICE WAS CONSPICUOUSLY LACKING. CONFERENCE THEREAFTER HEARD SERIES OF SPEECHES BY PARTY LEADERS AND ADOPTED NUMBER OF RESOLUTIONS INCLUDING: AA) A WARNING THAT UNREST LIKELY TO ESCALATE AS LONG AS APARTHEID PERSISTS;

B) REJECTION OF SAG'S NEW SPORTS POLICY; CALLS FOR
(C) PRIME MINISTER TO CALL A NATIONAL CONVENTION OF
ALL SOUTH AFRICAN PEOPLES; D) FOR REPEAL OF ALL SECURITY
LAWS WHICH HAD SUSPENDED THE ROLES OF COURTS; E) FOR
JUDICIAL INQUIRY INTO RECENT DEATHS OF DETAINEES AND
CONDEMNATION OF DETENTION OF TEACHERS AND STUDENTS DURING
PAST YEAR; F) FOR NATIONALIZATION OF GOLD MINING
INDUSTRY; G) FOR RIGHT OF BLACKS TO OWN FARMS ON FREE-
HOLD BASIS; AND H) FOR TRADE UNION MOVEMENT TO PLAY
"MORE MEANINGFUL" ROLE IN THE STRUGGLE OF OPPRESSED
WORKERS.

2. AMONG OTHER SPEAKERS WHO ADDRESSED CONFERENCE WERE
A. J. KLOPPERS, LEADER OF COLORED DELEGATION TO TURNHALL
CONFERENCE IN NAMIBIA (REFTEL) AND ACHMAT (LOFTY) ADAMS,
LABOR PARTY WHIP IN CRC WHO REPORTEDLY EARNED STANDING
OVATION FOR SPEECH IN WHICH HE WARNED PARTY TO RELY ON
THE RESOURCES AND STRENGTH OF THE PEOPLE THEY REPRESENTED
AND NOT TO "GRASP AT STARS OR FALSE HOPES." AS
EXAMPLE OF LATTER, HE QUOTED CONGRESSMAN CHARLES DIGGS
AS HAVING PROMISED DURING VISIT HERE DECEMBER 3 TO "BRING
SOUTH AFRICA TO ITS KNEES" THROUGH ECONOMIC SANCTIONS.
ADAMS SAID HE HAD CHALLENGED REP. DIGGS ON WHETHER IN
FACT SANCTIONS COULD BE PASSED THROUGH US CONGRESS. HE
ACCUSED THE CONGRESSMAN OF AROUSING HOPE OF BLACKS
IN SOUTH AFRICA WHICH HE KNEW COULD NOT BE FULFILLED.

3. ONLY SHOW OF OPPOSITION TO PARTY LEADERSHIP WAS
RESIGNATION OF FORMER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 CAPE T 00030 120714Z

A.J. FORTUIN WHO CRITICIZED PARTY LEADERS FOR TURNING
CRC INTO "A CIRCUS" WITH WALKOUTS AND BOYCOTTS
WHILE FAILING TO GET ANY REAL BENEFITS FOR COLORED
COMMUNITY.

4. COMMENT: MANY OBSERVERS WERE STRONGLY CRITICAL
OF PARTY LEADERSHIP FOR FAILURE TO ADDRESS DILEMMA
OF REJECTING PRIME MINISTER'S CABINET COUNCIL OUT OF HAND
WHILE PARTICIPATING IN CRC WHICH IT DENOUNCES AS
INSTITUTION OF APARTHEID AND IN WHICH IT HAS FOLLOWED
POLICY OF "CONFRONTATION" WITH SAG. SOME CRITICS NOTED
THAT ASIDE FROM ADOPTING RESOLUTION WARNING OF CONTINUED
UNREST THERE WAS VIRTUALLY NO DISCUSSION OF IMPLICATIONS
OF UNREST AND NO EFFORT TO PROVIDE GUIDANCE TO THE
COMMUNITY OR ELABORATE A NEW STRATEGY FOR MOVING TOWARD
PARTY'S AVOWED GOAL OF A NON-RACIAL SOCIETY. ONE INFLUENTIAL
PARTY MEMBER WHO IS PRIVATELY, IF NOT PUBLICLY, AT ODDS WITH
PARTY LEADERSHIP, TOLD CONGEN OFF THAT IF PARTICIPATION IN
CABINET COUNCIL

INVOLVED SIGNIFICAN FINANCIAL REMUNERATION, PARTY LEADERS
WOULD "VERY LIKELY" HAVE TAKEN DIFFERENT ATTITUDE TOWARD
PARTICIPATION. HE NOTED THAT FOR PARTICIPATION IN CRC,
REPRESENTATIVES ARE PAID R6,000 ANNUALLY
(R1.00 - \$1.15) AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS R12,000
PLUS VARIOUS PERQUISITES. IT HAS LONG BEEN FASHIONABLE
AMONG SOME ELEMENTS OF COLORED COMMUNITY, PARTICULARLY
INTELLECTUALS AND PROFESSIONALS, TO SNEER AT COLORED
POLITICS IN GENERAL AND LABOR PARTY IN PARTICULAR. THUS,
ALLEGATIONS OF VENALITY MUST BE TREATED WITH AT LEAST
SOME CAUTION. NONETHLESS, IT IS CLEAR THAT LABOR
PARTY LEADERS FAILED TO ENUNCIATE COHERENT AND OVERALL
STRATEGY FOR THE COMING YEAR OR TO PROVIDE CONVINCING
RATIONALE FOR A SEEMINGLY CONTRADICTORY AND INEFFECTIVE
POLICY. THERE WAS, MOREOVER, NO EVIDENCE AT THIS
CONFERENCE OF LABOR PARTY'S ABILITY TO BUILD BRIDGES
TO OR PROVIDE LEADERSHIP FOR EDUCATED YOUTH WHICH WAS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 CAPE T 00030 120714Z

THE MOST VOLATILE ELEMENT IN LAST YEAR'S RIOTS.
WHITE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LABOR UNIONS, MEETINGS, POLITICAL PARTIES, LABOR POLICY LINE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 11-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977CAPET00030
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770011-0590
Format: TEL
From: CAPE TOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770164/aaaacdxg.tel
Line Count: 141
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a21f2fdb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 CAPE TOWN 19
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3628085
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: (COLORED) LABOR PARTY'S ANNUAL CONFERENCE
TAGS: PINT, SF, (LEON, SUNNY), (DIGGS, CHARLES)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a21f2fdb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009